

# CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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**RELEASE**  
**DATE: January 14, 2004**

## **Forester Receives State Award For Archaeological Site Stewardship**

*- Richard Wade Has Discovered and Protected 30 Prehistoric and 55 Historic Sites-*

**Sacramento** — The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) have presented Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Richard Wade with its "Golden Trowel Award" in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the protection of California's archaeological resources.

The Board and CDF present this award annually to recognize superior archaeological survey and protection efforts made by members of the regulated public. Forester Wade is one of 1600 resource professionals to have completed CDF's certified archaeological training program, the individuals eligible to receive the "Golden Trowel Award." The award symbolizes successful integration of archaeological site identification and management into professional forestry within California.

Archaeological sites are public trust resources and RPFs such as Rich Wade, who have completed archaeological site recognition training from CDF, are requested to identify and protect such sites during timber harvesting operations and other types of land management projects reviewed by CDF. These sites include Native American villages and campsites, bedrock seed grinding stations, petroglyphs, tool-making spots, old homesteads, pioneer trails, Gold-Rush-era mining towns and features, or railroad logging grades.

According to CDF Archaeology Program Manager Dan Foster, cultural resources "are particularly vulnerable to damage caused by logging because these sites are fragile, irreplaceable, non-



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renewable, and so easily overlooked during resource inventories.” This makes Rich Wade’s superior survey work so important, as his projects include careful consideration for protecting cultural resources within the logging area.

Wade’s survey work took place on SPI’s Camino tract, which is rich in sites associated to the area’s history and prehistory. Since arriving at Camino, he has found and recorded 30 prehistoric sites and 55 historic sites. In testimonials given at the award ceremony in Sacramento, Foster reported that “CDF has noticed superior work products produced by Rich Wade for over 15 years.” These include detailed survey reports and individual site records that document the exact location of each discovered site.

“I’m very gratified and humbled to be in the select company of Golden Trowel recipients,” said Wade. “It’s exciting when you piece together the scattered evidence on the ground to provide a picture of the past, particularly when you draw on your experience or intuition to get you there.”

“You begin to gain a larger understanding of the scope of historic and prehistoric activities– a cultural identity of the forest. This deeper understanding allows you to do better archaeological work, to predict where sites may be, and to better interpret what you see,” said Wade.

Wade is one of only 11 private RPFs to have been honored since the award was first created in 1989. He received his B.S. in Forestry at UC Berkeley and has served on the Board of Directors of the CA Licensed Foresters Association for six years, including service as the CLFA President. In 1995, he joined SPI as a forester, a position that he holds today. He has completed three separate archaeological training courses from CDF during the past 15 years.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation, family-owned and operated forest products company based in Anderson, CA. It employs approximately 3,600 employees and operates 13 sawmills and four wood products plants in California.

Additional information on the award and photos are available at [www.indiana.edu/~e472/cdf/trowel/](http://www.indiana.edu/~e472/cdf/trowel/)

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